

AARP North Dakota

April 26, 2004

The Honorable Earl Pomeroy
U.S. House of Representatives
Federal Building
220 East Rosser Avenue, Room 376
Bismarck, ND 58501

Dear Congressman Pomeroy,

Thank you for supporting enactment of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003. Now that the bill has been signed into law, we are looking ahead to what its provisions will mean to our members and all older North Dakotans and their families and for future generations of Medicare beneficiaries.

It is clear that the prescription drug benefit targets the most generous assistance to the two groups who need it most, low income beneficiaries and those with high drug costs. It also helps to contain costs by getting generic drugs to market faster and by funding research that compares the effectiveness and safety of drugs. As a result, physicians, pharmacists, and consumers can choose the most effective drug at the lowest price.

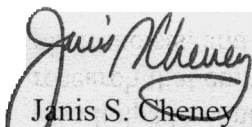
The addition of important new preventive and chronic care benefits will also improve the quality of life for many people and save money as well.

Very importantly, the legislation protects the integrity and future of Medicare. It is voluntary, so beneficiaries can decide whether enrollment is in their best interests, it allows beneficiaries to remain in fee-for-service Medicare with access to a drug benefit if they choose, and those who prefer a managed care plan have that option as well.

We commend you for helping fulfill a longstanding promise to more than forty million older and disabled Americans.

As we work to enhance and strengthen this benefit, we look forward to working with you, as well as on other issues of importance to North Dakota members and their families.

Sincerely,



Janis S. Cheney
State Director